HAK SOWCROFT

L. L.

STATE DENIES U.S. PLANES INVOLUED IN M.E. WAR

ZZ RNR132

1410 :MIDEAST-DENIAL:

WASHINGTON, OCT. 13, REUTER--THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY BRANDED TODAY AS MISCHIEVOUS AND GROUNDLESS REPORTS THAT AMERICAN PLAN'S AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID THE REPORTS WERE REMINISCENT OF THE SO-CALLED "BIG LIE TECHNIQUE" THAT WAS E PLOYED IN THE 1967

"IDDLE EAST WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS BLAMED.

THE SPOKESMAN, REFLECTING OBVIOUS IRRITATION OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO REPORTS THAT U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, OR THAT A PHANTOM JET BEARING AMERICAN MARKINGS AND PILOTED BY AN AMERICAN HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN ON FRIDAY OVER DAMASCUS.

LASTLY, HE SAID, THERE WAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING BY

U.S. MILITARY FORCES OR PERSONNEL.

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1419 : "IDEAST-DENIAL 2 WASHINGTON:

"MOST DISTURBING IS THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE EMANATING FROM ARAB QUARTERS WHERE ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE ASKED THE UNITED STATES ON A MUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS THEY CAN," MCCLOSKEY SAID.

OTHER OFFICIALS NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NO AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL OR PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN THE WAR, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT AMERICANS WHO MIGHT VOLUNTEER PRIVATELY TO SERVE WITH ISRAELI FORCES.

MCCLOSKEY'S REMARKS WERE MADE AT A RARE SATURDAY NEWS BRIEFING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH HE SAID THE RUSSIAN AIRLIFT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO EGYPT AND SYRIA WAS CONTINUING AT WHAT APPEARED TO BE A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL RATE.

WE WARNED: "IF THIS PERSISTS, IT IS GOING TO CREATE SERIOUS

DIFFICULTIES."

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FRIDAY. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TERMED THE RUSSIAN AIRLIFT SUBSTANTIAL BUT MODERATE AND INDICATED THAT THE STAGE HAD NOT BEE REACHED WHERE BUSSIAN ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE CALLED IRRESPONSIBLE. ::REUTER WS/GM